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NEWS

For Immediate Release:

Deadline Extended for Conservation Innovation Grants

Durham, March 25, 2005—Tessa Chadwick, State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced New Hampshire is making \$213,000 available for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). The deadline for proposals has been extended to May 3, 2005. All applications must be received at the NRCS office by 5:00 p.m.

This is a grant competition for farmers, State or local governments or non-governmental organizations and others who have innovative ideas for addressing some of New Hampshire's most pressing natural resource conservation needs. Projects may be from one to three years in length.

"These grants offer an opportunity to promote innovative technologies and approaches to environmental solutions on working agricultural lands," said Chadwick. Grants will fund projects targeting innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations.

Applications should demonstrate the use of innovative technologies or approaches to address at least one of the five natural resource concerns identified by NRCS in New Hampshire: soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife.

A request for proposals (RFP) has been posted at www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig.html. Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost. The federal CIG contribution for any individual grant may not exceed \$75,000 for a project.

The 2002 Farm Bill established these grants as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the first national grants were awarded in 2004. This year, New Hampshire along with 12 other states, will offer a statewide grant competition.

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